

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/558,749

Applicant(s)

MALONEY, RIAN R.

Examiner

Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-41 and 43-50.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04/20/00 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

1. Applicant's response filed on 05/20/05 has been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant's arguments with regard to the double patenting rejection, see applicant's remarks paper # 05/20/05 pages 14-16, are persuasive, therefore examiner withdraws the double patenting rejection.
3. Applicant has claims 51-59 in his current response, filed on 05/20/05, as the status of being withdrawn but this is incorrect since applicant's representative had previously canceled these claims in his election response, filed on 10/01/04, to the examiner's restriction given on the claims on 08/26/04. Therefore, examiner will cancel these claims by examiner's amendment in order to expedite the case since the pending claims (#1-41 and #43-50) are allowable.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. The application has been amended as follows:

Please **cancel claims 51-59** as per the reason given above.
5. Claims 1-41 and 43-50 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of Lau et al. (U.S. patent 6,370,266 B1) discloses a financial document processing system. This system of Lau et al. transports financial

documents from one device to another (Hopper, feeder, MICR reader image capture subsystem, etc.) with different processes taking place upon the financial document based on function of the device in question. The prior art of Lau et al. does not teach the features of, regarding claim 1, of "generating process buffer data based on the MICR buffer data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters; and receiving a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data," that, in combination with the other claim limitations. Regarding claim 11, Lau et al. does not teach the features of "generating process buffer data based on the MICR buffer data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter; and receiving a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data," that, in combination with the other claim limitations. Regarding claim 20, Lau et al. does not teach the limitation of "an emulator coupled to the sorter, the emulator operable to access the MICR data, to generate process buffer data based on the MICR data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, and to generate a plurality of feature instructions for each check based on the process buffer data," that, in combination with the other claim limitations. Regarding claim 31, Lau et al. does not teach the features of "the logic operable to access MICR buffer data for the check sorter, the MICR buffer data comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate process buffer data based on the

MICR buffer data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check,” that, in combination with the other claim limitations. Regarding claim 41, Lau et al. does not teach the features of “the logic operable to access MICR buffer data for the check sorter, the MICR buffer data comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate process buffer data based on the MICR buffer data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check,” that, in combination with the other claim limitations.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is (571) 272-7416, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is (571) 272-

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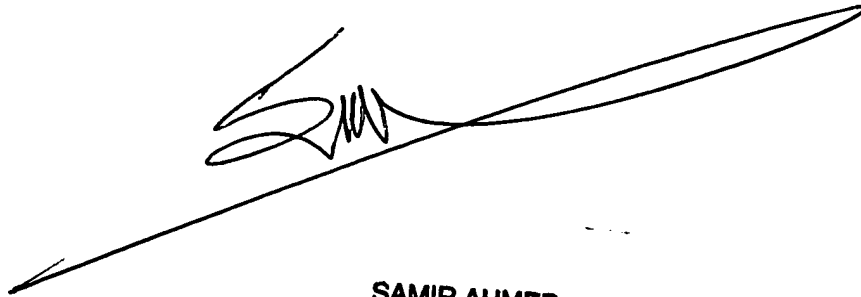
7414, group fax is 703-872-9306, and Tech center 2600 customer service office number is 703-306-0377.

AB

Anand Bhatnagar

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June 26, 2005

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Samir Ahmed, positioned above the printed name.

**SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER**